

# NATIONAL RECORDER.

"Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes."

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## Miscellany.

*For the National Recorder.*

### THE POOR.

It requires little foresight to perceive that the approaching winter will produce more than the usual suffering among the poor in our large cities. So many modes of employment have failed this summer, that even the industrious and provident have been unable to make preparation for the inclement season. It becomes us, therefore, to consider at an early day of the best means of preventing the misery that threatens them, and if we can devise any plan by which honest industry can be distinguished from profligate idleness, we shall preserve much of what would have been wasted on the latter, to soften the necessary sufferings of those who have come to want through the inevitable pressure of commercial distress.

I take the liberty to suggest, that our corporation should establish *manufactories* of such kinds as would give employment to those who have served no apprenticeship to them. Let them allow to each workman such a rate of wages, as that a day of industrious labour will procure the necessary food and clothing. Some might be paid in money; others might be fed and clothed in buildings appropriated to their labours. It will be especially necessary to fix upon some kind of labour that can be done by *women* at their own houses. There are very many women who are burdened, by the vicious indolence and drunkenness of their husbands, with the whole care of supplying the wants of their children. Many an affectionate heart supports a weak frame through a long course of unremitting labour, for a reward that would be contemptuously rejected by the other sex, as insufficient to sustain life.

VOL. II.

By this method, the poor will be supported at an expense comparatively small, and they will not be taught habits of idleness and dependence. J.

The last number of the Quarterly Review contains two articles on the United States, which are exceedingly offensive. Why should they by the most palpable falsehoods, endeavour to prevent friendship from following peace? We should, however, be willing to extract "sermons from stones, and good from every thing," and therefore copy their opinion of English poor laws.

"Our system of poor laws is radically bad. There is scarcely a statesman or philosopher in this country who would advocate their re-establishment, if they were once abolished. The conviction of the injury done by them to the industry, to the prudence, to the regard for reputation, to the charities of domestic life, and to the sobriety and honesty of the poor, is strong and universal, and the general study is, how to remove the evil with as little inconvenience as is compatible with the interests created by such long existing institutions, and with as little temporary suffering as possible. Whilst by ages of painful experience we have arrived at this conviction, America has just commenced the ruinous system; and is beginning to feel the evils which it must produce, and which will spread there with even greater rapidity than they have done with us."

*An Englishman's Reflections on our Manners.*

No. IV.

My English friend, like every other candid and observing man, did not dwell exclusively on our failings: he made many remarks highly favourable to the character of the people

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of Boston. He observed, that in passing through the United States, he had no where seen such an uniformity and consistency of manners, as he had observed in that city. 'It was (said he,) the only great place in which I could discern a pure and unmixed national character. There was none of the heterogeneous mixture which I remarked in other great cities of the United States. In them one seems to be either at one of the great watering places of Europe, such as Spa or Bagnieres, or that seat of luxuriant concourse, Rome. The characters are so mixed, that one can scarcely tell whether you are in Europe or America. In Boston, though there appeared to be a great change from the rigid and austere manners of your ancestors, as they have been often described to us, yet you could always perceive in society that simplicity, firmness, frankness and hospitality, which one would naturally expect from the descendants of the pilgrims, relaxed in their manners, in some degree, from the puritanical practices and principles of their ancestors. Your ladies had less of the imported and theatrical airs, which are so disgusting in those of some other cities. They were neither French nor English, nor an awkward mixture of both. In their dancing parties, they did not imitate the theatrical style so common in France, and which the English ladies have been unwisely too ready to imitate. Your women appeared to me to have more pride in the cultivation of the understanding, than in the transient and temporary arts which allure before marriage, but which so far from being serviceable to them in the important character of wives and mothers, are sure to render them unfit for the duties of both. I observed (said he,) with pain, that there were evident approaches towards the corrupt manners of other nations, and that a lady who could dance with more agility, and display with art all the delicacy of her form, without blushing, was often the object of general attention, and frequently of applause; but I thought I could perceive among your young men generally, on these occasions, more of surprise and admiration, than of approbation and respect. It seemed to me that they had formed an higher standard of merit in their own minds, and were not yet prepared to exchange the delights of an highly cultivated understanding, a modest, chaste, and delicate deportment, for the talents and acquisitions which would fit a lady for a ballet at an opera. They appeared to me still to retain a high respect for the sex, as their rational companions in life, calculated to sooth them in sorrow, to refresh and enliven them after the fatigues of business and the cares of the world, to educate their children, and to smooth and sweeten the evening of their lives.

'I was not surprised at this taste and preference in your young men, because (with some, I fear too many, exceptions,) I found them men of information, of cultivated intellect.

'There is no point in which to me, as a

stranger and an Englishman, Boston appeared to so much advantage, as in the literary taste and improvement of all its citizens, more especially its younger ones. That this is owing principally to the great care of the well educated, but republican patriots, who first settled in your country, there can be no doubt. What could be expected, in this respect, from states originally peopled by the boors and vicious outcasts of Europe? With you, the first settlers brought with them knowledge and the means of transmitting it. Your university, without (in my opinion, as a foreigner) a rival in your country, has fostered this spirit, and so long as that shall flourish and send forth annually so many young men of cultivated taste, you may fairly hope that your society will remain comparatively pure. It is indeed much to be regretted, that a habit of expense, (notwithstanding all the efforts of the governors of the college) is constantly gaining ground in the university, thereby discouraging parents from sending their children to it for education; but I am satisfied from what I saw and heard, that this is confined to but few, and that the greater part of the students are animated by feelings which are highly favourable to the interests of literature, and the welfare of your republic.

'So long as Boston and its environs shall, like Edinburgh, pride itself, and with justice, on its attention to letters, the best and almost the only safeguard to morals, in a luxurious state of society, so long you may hope to retain your unquestioned pre-eminence in domestic virtues, and the arts and innocent enjoyments which adorn, embellish, and render delightful private society. Were I a citizen of Boston, (said my friend, waxing a little warm,) I would put in Coventry every lady who had a petticoat six inches shorter than those of her neighbours—who waltzed with more languor and address—who assumed any siren airs at a party or elsewhere—who walked in a style peculiarly graceful, so as to attract the notice of the idle and dissolute—who jumped more than a foot from the floor in a cotillion—or who, in short, showed that she had such a contempt for the understandings and taste of the beaux, as to believe that they would prefer her, on these accounts, to any actress who, on the stage, every night, excels her in these theatrical accomplishments.'

I most earnestly thanked my English friend for this just encomium on our manners, in which I modestly but fully concurred; and I joined with him in the earnest prayer, that our beaux would continue to cultivate their minds, and our belles to despise the arts which belong only to the hirelings of the stage.

#### No. V.

'I was surprised, said this English friend, to see celibacy so common in your country, yet so young and vigorous, and affording, as it certainly does, so many inducements to early marriages. I saw many grey haired beaux in



all your circles, with constitutions if not worn out, as in Europe, at least impaired by the habits which celibacy always brings with it. Can it be for the interest and happiness of your country, that your youth should waste the vigour of their lives in dissipation and indulgence, and only think of domestic enjoyments at a period when they are enervated and enfeebled by age, and by indulgencies which not only render them unfit for the innocent and simple pleasures of domestic society, but which create a distaste for them, which no merit, or beauty, or talent, or accomplishments in their wives, can ever overcome? Hence results that disparity of age in your matches so common in Europe, and which has been the fertile source of domestic wretchedness and too often of infidelity. Are you sensible, that this cause is one of the most powerful in its tendency to relax your morals, to corrupt your national character and to assimilate your state of society to that of the most degraded countries of Europe? I am sensible that this extends only to your higher classes—that the great mass still remain pure—but is it of no moment that a corruption of manners should prevail among that order of society which has the most extensive influence on the rest? I replied—Hitherto no very great degree of corruption has actually resulted from the causes you have described, though I admit that their tendency is precisely what you have stated. We have not had as yet many cases of divorce or suits for criminal conversation in our whole country—but the manners resulting from this constantly increasing procrastination of marriage among the wealthier classes, must inevitably lead to all the consequences which have resulted from the same causes in other countries.

As yet the evil is limited to the genteel establishments of private mistresses, to the frequenting places of public amusement, and to the neglect of that sort of hallowed and delightful intercourse of private life which used to form, and which in the early and uncorrupted state of all societies always did form the chief, and the highest enjoyments of life.

From the same cause has proceeded the alteration in the style of our convivial parties. Instead of being simple, informal, unexpensive, they are full of parade and formality and expense.

Parents, instead of wishing to connect their daughters or their sons with persons of good character and excellent habits, sometimes look only to the establishment and the fortune of the party, and though we do not *in form*, (which I really think an improvement if we must have the corrupt manners of Europe,) though we do not have our marriage articles, and put the bags of gold in one scale against the bags of gold in the other, yet we sometimes do what is much worse, we throw out of the case the moral character, or the fitness of the match itself, without adopting the European improvement for such cases, a settled establishment, which may provide for the case of either party being discontented

or dissatisfied with the other. Still, sir, *as yet* in our town *very little* if *any* evil has resulted. We have few or no forced matches, and very few ill sorted ones—but the tendency is (as you remark) to produce that effect and all its direful consequences.

The cause of this protracted celibacy on the part of our young men, is not that they cannot earn as much as their fathers did, but that they *expend more*—that they have more luxurious habits; and that most inexorable, yet *miserable tyrant*, fashion, has completely conquered the good sense, and manly independence of our country.

Thirty years ago, I know well, that many men whom I could name, were it decorous to do so, and yet it ought to be decorous because it redounded to their honour, married with an income of a thousand dollars a year—their houses were such as the meanest tradesman at the present day would almost sneer at—their whole furniture did not cost them more than a fashionable piano forte, and they sustained with these disgraceful circumstances, as they are now esteemed, the highest rank in society. They were then respected for their economy, and they have lived to be the guides and guardians of the state.

Yet you must not believe that even at *this* day this foolish course of expense, the side-board which costs as much as the furniture of an house formerly did, confer distinction and respect. No: it is become so vulgar, the imitation has spread so far and so wide, and has become so ridiculous, that when one sees an expensive article of furniture going into a house, we either predict the ruin of the owner, or pity his weakness. We think how many real comforts he is taking from his children—we look forward to the day when they will be sacrificed under the hammer—but above all, we reflect on the certain fall of his posterity, who, accustomed to such profusion, will neither be fitted to preserve the little modicum which their parents may leave them, nor acquire a competency for themselves. The style of living in our country has advanced in a ratio far, most assuredly far, before our means. These means must and will most rapidly diminish. In a prudential view, therefore, this conduct is irrational. But it has higher and more extensive effects. It discourages matrimony; it is unfriendly to the more intimate and kindly associations which are so favourable to happiness, morals, and the preservation of our public character and freedom.

How then is it to be checked? By public sentiment. If we pity, openly pity, every departure from prudence and propriety in matters of expense—if we honour and treat with distinction those who exhibit examples of economy and independence—if, in short, we evince by our conduct that a splendid equipage, a sumptuous entertainment, an extravagantly furnished house, do not raise, but depress the owner in esteem, the remedy is instantly effected.

[*Boston Daily Advertiser.*

*Slanders of the Quarterly Review.*

We have just risen with inexpressible disgust from the perusal of the two papers in the last number of the *Quarterly Review*, which treat of the United States; and notwithstanding the strong indications which these and similar essays afford of the *terror* with which the rising power of this country is looked upon in Britain, and of the sore and ever present mortification which our naval victories inflicted on this presumptuous nation, we cannot but regret the tendency and the inevitable effect of such publications, on the political relations, as well as on the social intercourse, of the two countries. In a form of government so essentially popular as ours, the feelings of the people must naturally and properly have a greater and more immediate effect on political measures, than where those feelings are filtered and diluted by a passage through a house of commons, of which, from one quarter to one third of the members are government retainers, or dependents, and of course government supporters, at all events, in all measures. What the nature of these feelings would be, and what the temper in political intercourse which they are likely to inspire, let any American judge, who has read, as we have, the papers now in question. None can more strongly desire than ourselves a lasting peace between the United States and Great Britain; none can be more sensible of the mutual interest of both countries in such a state of things, and of the difficulties and dangers which an interruption of friendly intercourse would lead to. We will go further and say—none can admire more than ourselves, the greatness of character, the steadiness of purpose, and lofty contempt of hardship and suffering in their country's cause, which belong to Englishmen; and the friendship and respect of such a people should not be indifferent to us. But when we see their principal and most widely circulating journals raking together all possible slanders, and giving currency to every vile effusion of ignorant and disappointed *riders*;\* when, to answer some paltry and temporary pur-

\* That class of Englishmen most often seen here—so called, from their occupation, (not unlike that of our tin pedlers,) of riding the country with patterns, &c.

pose, of checking excessive emigration, or of refuting the assertions of a rival journal, they do not scruple to put in jeopardy the lasting interests of the two countries; when we see that the desire on our part to take example by them, to profit by their age, their experience, and their greater progress in the arts which adorn, and the sciences which exalt life, are met by them with cold supercilious disdain, with sneers upon our habits, our morals, and our institutions; when, losing their ancient magnanimity, we see them cherishing and fomenting in peace the feelings of hostility and revenge, which an unsuccessful and inglorious war had awakened—can it be expected, would it be justifiable, that we should still look to them with friendly or partial eyes? Their hostility we cannot fear; their good opinion we can only desire from some remains of lingering affection, and from the belief that through its influence the mortal contest which impends between the two countries, may long be averted. But let not the people of England deceive themselves; the proud boast, that to them the nations of Europe look as to their “moral conscience,” holds not good here. We are not more widely separated by our republican institutions, than by our interests, from any dependence upon their power or their opinions. We are physically and morally independent of them. We owe them no favours, and it seems they are determined we shall owe them no affection. Be it so.

As to the vile tales which the *Quarterly Review* propagates of our country, they cannot need refutation. In all points of religion, of morality, of the strict and impartial administration of justice, the security of person and of property, of national faith and private honour, we cannot shrink from a comparison with England. We have not, indeed, her numerous and most enlightened scholars, her host of distinguished philosophers; we have not either (and we desire to be thankful for it) her *eminent statesmen*, her Castlereagh's and Vansittart's. But our system of education is ameliorating; the importance and value of literary attainments is daily becoming more manifest, from the scope and encouragement which our free institutions afford to such pursuits; and though without a regular school for di-



plomacy, or extensive military or naval establishments, we have ever hitherto had the fortune to produce statesmen, and soldiers, and sailors, whom England at least should be the last to depreciate, for over Englishmen have their victories been achieved.

Yet feeling thus authorised to despise these miserable slanders, we cannot restrain our vexation, as well at their constant repetition, as at the worthlessness of the means through which we are assailed. What but the blindness of impotent hate, could induce the reviewers to give circulation to the low and vulgar falsehoods of Fearon, relative to America, after the character which their own page assigns to him, when speaking of his native country, of a "*mean, false, ignorant, and flippant calumniator*;" yet in relation to the United States, he is all truth—he is emphatically commended on his truth; a fellow, who puts the same language into the mouths of all his *dramatis personæ*, whether gentle or simple, white or black, in New England or Louisiana; a driveller, who has not even succeeded in writing a plausible fiction. As to Mr. Bristed and his book, they are not "native to this clime;" his sentiments, his style, and his "imagery," are exclusively British; we have neither lot, nor part, nor parcel, in them. "Non tali auxilio," &c. [American.]

#### FUR TRADE.

As a great part of the North West Coast of America may now be regarded the property of the United States, the fur trade carried on between the North West Coast and the Indies, as also the fur trade between the North West Coast and the interior of America, forms a subject of the greatest interest. Even in the year 1792, it appears from Vancouver's voyages, that five vessels from Boston, and one from New York, were regularly employed in this trade. The best general history of the fur trade is contained in the publication of Sir Alexander M'Kenzie. The first persons engaged in the trade were called *Cou-rieurs de Bris*, because they were a kind of pedlars, and were extremely useful to the merchants engaged in the fur trade, who gave them the necessary credit to proceed on their commercial undertakings. Three or four of these people would join their stock, put their property into a birch-bark canoe, which they worked themselves, and either accompanied the natives on their excursions, or went at once to the country where they knew they

were to hunt. At length these voyages extended to twelve or fifteen months; when they returned with rich cargoes of furs, and followed by great numbers of natives.

At length, military posts were established at the confluence of the different large lakes of Canada for the particular purpose of carrying on the fur trade; and a number of respectable men retired from the army, prosecuted the trade in person, with great order and regularity, and extended it to such a distance as, in those days, was considered to be an astonishing effort of commercial enterprise. These persons and the missionaries having combined their views, at the same time secured the respect of the natives, and the obedience of the people necessarily employed in the laborious parts of this undertaking. These gentlemen denominated themselves commanders, and not traders, though they were entitled to both these characters.

In the year 1776 the fur trade commenced from Michilimackinac. The first who attempted it were satisfied to go the length of the river Comenistiquia, about thirty miles to the eastward of the Grand Portage, where the French had a principal establishment, and was the line of their communication with the interior country. A few years afterwards, Thomas Carny, with a spirit of enterprise superior to that of his contemporaries, determined to penetrate the furthest limits of the French discoveries, or at least till the frost should stop him. For this purpose he procured guides and interpreters who were acquainted with the country; and, with four canoes, arrived at Fort Bourbon, which was one of their posts, at the west end of the Cedar lake, on the waters of Saskatchewan. His risk and toil were well recompensed; for he came back the following spring, with his canoes filled with fine furs, with which he proceeded to Canada, and was satisfied never again to return to the Indian country.

From this period, people began to spread over every part of the country, particularly where the French had established settlements.

In the year 1774, a Mr. Joseph Frobisher determined to penetrate into the country yet unexplored, to the north and westward, and, in the spring of 1775 met the Indians from that quarter on their way to Fort Churchill. It was, indeed, with some difficulty that he could induce them to trade with him; but he at length procured as many furs as his canoes would carry. In this perilous expedition he sustained every kind of hardship incident to a journey through a wild and savage country, where his subsistence depended on what the woods and the waters produced. These difficulties, nevertheless, did not discourage him from returning in the following year; when he was equally successful.

The success of Mr. Frobisher induced others to follow his example, and, in the spring of the year 1778, some of the traders on the Saskatchewan river, finding they had a quantity of goods to spare, gave the charge

of them to a Mr. Peter Pond, who, in four canoes, proceeded to Athabasca, a country hitherto unknown but from Indian report.

The fur trade hitherto was solely carried on by individual enterprise; but during the winter of 1783-4, the merchants of Canada, engaged in this trade, formed a junction of interests under the name of the North West Company, and divided it into sixteen shares, without depositing any capital; each party furnishing a proportion or quota of such articles as were necessary to carry on the trade; the respective parties agreeing to satisfy the friends they had in the country, who were not provided for, according to this agreement, out of the proportions which they held. The management of the whole was intrusted to Messrs. Benjamin and Joseph Frobisher, and Mr. Simon M'Towish, two distinct houses, who had the greatest interest and influence in the country, and for which they were to receive a stipulated commission in all transactions.

In 1788, the gross amount of the adventure for the year did not exceed forty thousand pounds; but, by the exertion, enterprise, and industry of the proprietors, it was brought in eleven years, to triple that amount, and upwards, yielding proportionate profits, and surpassing, in short, any thing known in America.

Such, therefore, being the prosperous state of the company, it very naturally tempted others to interfere with the concern in a manner by no means beneficial to the company, and commonly ruinous to the undertakers.

In 1798, the concern underwent a new form, the shares were increased to forty-six, new partners being admitted and others retiring. This period was the termination of the company, which was not renewed by all the parties concerned in it, the majority continuing to act, upon the old stock, and under the old firm; the others beginning a new one. From this period, therefore, the fur trade in Canada has been carried on by two distinct companies; one called the Old North West Company, and the other the New North West Company.

The following is the general mode of carrying on the fur trade.

The agents are obliged to order the necessary goods from England in the month of October, eighteen months before they can leave Montreal; that is, they are not shipped from London until the spring following, when they arrive in Canada in the summer. In the course of the following winter they are made up into such articles as are required for the savages; they are then packed into parcels of ninety pounds weight each; but cannot be sent from Montreal until the May following; so that they do not get to market until the ensuing winter, when they are exchanged for furs, which come to Montreal the next fall, and from thence are shipped chiefly to London, where they are not sold or paid for before the succeeding spring, even as late as June; which is forty-two

months after the goods were ordered in Canada, thirty-six after they had been shipped from England, and twenty-four after they had been forwarded from Montreal; so that the merchant, allowing that he has twelve months credit, does not receive a return to pay for those goods and the necessary expenses attending them, which is about equal to the value of the goods themselves, until two years after they are considered as cash. There is even a small proportion of it that requires twelve months longer to bring round the payment, owing to the immense distance it is carried, and from the shortness of the seasons, which prevents the furs, even after they are collected, from coming out of the country for that period.

This brief view of the fur trade with England may be sufficient at present to show the importance of the commerce. [*Pet. Intel.*]

#### COMPLETION OF PROPHECY.

Mr. Editor—Reading a few days ago, a German work, written about or before 1797, by D. Von Dulow, on the United States of America, I was struck by some predictions or rather conclusions the author made concerning the future fate of this country. I was induced to translate the following extract, as particularly at the present time we see the truth of it. If you think it worthy of deserving a place in your excellent paper, you are at liberty to insert it.

YOUR CONSTANT READER.

"The welfare of North America is said to be well established, by some superficial observers, when they see at Philadelphia, New York, &c. fine houses, rich furniture, fashionable dresses, and many goods; or when they behold merchants driven along the streets, in costly carriages drawn by fat horses. These theorists, who thus in one sentence decree the immovable welfare of America might be a little entangled with their arguments, if they were asked, in what the welfare of a nation properly consists? I assert, that, after a continental peace, this apparent prosperity produced by accidental circumstances, will receive a severe shock.

"In fact the whole carrying trade with the West India produce, with coffee, sugar, &c. will then be lost for America. This carrying trade has principally brought her navigation to its present pitch. The West India islands will



either be declared independent, or each European power will retain its colonies. In both cases the Americans will lose the carrying trade. In the first case, the Europeans will fetch those products in their own vessels, because the Americans, (whose sailors receive higher wages than all others,) cannot do it so cheap. On the other hand, they will not be permitted by the powers, who have West India possessions, to take colonial produce in their vessels to Europe.

"They will, therefore, be merely confined to domestic produce. Of these they may continue to sell in Europe, rice, tobacco, indigo, and cotton, but not in sufficient quantities to pay for the manufactures, which they buy in Europe, and principally in England. How many flour speculators will not be ruined, when they have to sacrifice the dear bought flour at half price? for Europe will not want their flour and grain after a peace, and the West Indies will want less, when no armies and fleets will be there any more to consume it. Money, will then, on account of these circumstances, cease to flow in such quantities into America, as has been the case since a few years—and the exportation of specie will, on account of the increased luxury to which they are accustomed, not be lessened. Silver, therefore, will soon vanish, and the papers of merchants, (drafts, notes, &c.) as well as of the bank, be depreciated. Bankruptcies will follow each other with great velocity; and the papers of credit will cease, after having lost all their value.

"Ships, which are now held at such high prices, may then be bought very low—and lands will be very cheap. The insolvency of the land speculators is easy to be foreseen—all but the industrious farmer and mechanic will be ingulphed in the abyss of this universal bankruptcy—although they will also be oppressed by the general scarcity of money. This mercantile convulsion, which must have the destruction of the chimerical *paper system* for its consequence, will be a salutary lesson for the Americans. Perhaps it will make them wiser and better for the future—perhaps it will be so effective that the decrease of the influence of commerce, which has already been deduced from other sources will take its date from this crisis." [*Niag. Gleaner.*]

*Extract of a letter from Captain William Stiles, of the brig Homer, of Baltimore, dated*

"Batavia, 26th April, 1819.

"I passed the island of Amsterdam, at 11 P. M. with a fine breeze; it appeared to be all in flames, and I am perfectly convinced it is volcanic—the sight was truly magnificent—it appeared to have three different eruptions, at proper distances."

Mr. Sowerby, in a notice to the Horticultural Society in London, states his experience of the beneficial effects of watering fruit trees well at the time of the setting of the fruit. "Thus," he says, "a tree which in 1814 produced a very few pears of about half a pound each, in 1815 (by this method) produced a great number nearly double that weight."

The Steam-Ship *Savannah*, captain Rogers, arrived at Liverpool on the 21st of June, after a passage of 25 days. Her arrival is thus noticed in a Liverpool paper of the 25th.—"Among the arrivals at this port, on the 21st, we were particularly gratified and astonished by the novel sight of a fine steam-ship, which came round at half after seven, P. M. without the assistance of a single sheet, in a style which displayed the power and advantage of the application of steam to vessels of the largest size, being 350 tons burden. She is called the *Savannah*, Capt. Rogers, and sailed from Savannah 26th May, and arrived in the Channel five days since. During her passage, she worked the engine 18 days. Her model is beautiful, and the accommodation for passengers elegant and complete. This is the first ship on this construction that has undertaken a voyage across the Atlantic."

*Miseries.*—A very cold night; just feel comfortable in bed; a person knocks at the door; dress—walk down;—the gentleman has made a mistake in the house.

Walk in a strange court to hear an interesting trial; seeing room in the bar, get on the seat with the criminals; do not discover your mistake until directed by the judge, to stand up and receive your sentence; all eyes upon you.

Sitting down in a strange barber's shop to be shaved—lathered with strong yellow soap, the brush as large as a painter's—The barber, instead of using his fore finger to lather the upper lip, sweeping away with his detestable brush over mouth and all, finally preventing the possibility of breathing, by completely filling up the orifices of your nostrils with the soap suds. To conclude the whole, upon opening your mouth to remonstrate with the filthy fellow, receiving the brush and all its appurtenances plump into it.

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## News.

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### Foreign.

London, June 21.

Every post, we lament to say, brings accessions to that ominous species of domestic intelligence which we conceived it our duty as journalists to communicate to our readers on Saturday. The meeting held at Hurst, on Monday last, in the vicinity of Ashton-under-Line was as formidable to the present state of the institutions of this country as that convened on the evening of that identical day in the vicinity of Leeds. Nearly 15,000 persons were present at Hurst, while from 8 to 10,000 were assembled on Hunslet Moor. Seventeen of those resolutions, which now characterise these meetings were successively read and passed by the multitude at Hurst, with addresses of thanks to Hunt, Cobbett, Wooler, Sherwin, Carlisle, and Major Cartwright, and requesting that the veteran of reform would endeavour to prevail on Mr. Cobbett to return to England. Some fifty of the leaders sat down to dinner when the meeting had broken up, and amongst the toasts most approved, drank the "Memory of Thomas Paine, the author of *The Rights of Man*!" During the meeting the cap of liberty was paraded on a white standard, with the inscription of "Annual Parliaments and Universal Suffrage."—This same cap was also drank out of by the party who sat down to dine. Hunslet Moor meeting, held, as was stated, on the same day, had its origin in causes quite apart from the objects which its frequenters have since embraced.—"The first of these assemblages was," observes the Leeds Mercury of Saturday, "to show the number

of persons out of employment, and by awakening public sympathy, to obtain suitable assistance, in the shape either of labour or of relief; and in furtherance of this purpose, deputations from the workmen waited upon the mayor of the borough, and some hope was entertained that assistance might be afforded them, either in their native country or in a foreign land." Unhappily, it is added, "these hopes gradually give way before the difficulties, with which the business was surrounded; and, as they diminished, the meeting progressively assumed a political character." Now, admitting this statement, it may naturally be asked what connexion the object of relieving the distresses of workmen could fairly have in common with the Stockport Union, which addressed its congratulations to the meeting at Hurst, and expresses the confident hope that the latter would "not allow any individual or body of men to draw their attention for a moment from the grand cause (Universal Suffrage and Annual Parliaments) they have embarked in." Snowball like, these meetings, we fear, will accumulate as they go; and we have only to express an earnest hope that their progress may not eventually draw down upon us that suspension of liberty which the promoters of such "assemblages" have hitherto been the instruments of inflicting.

*Hard Times.*—In the British House of Commons on the 2d of July, a petition was presented from the duke of Kent, praying to be allowed to dispose of certain parts of his real estate by way of lottery. It was stated in the course of the debate that the royal duke was poor, and was not able to live in the splendid manner his royal consort had reason to expect. Lord Castlereagh expressed his disapprobation of the royal duke's petition, and informed the house that the duke of Kent had at present an income of *thirty-two thousand pounds sterling per year*. [Upwards of 140,000 dollars.] After some further debate, the petition was withdrawn.

Constantinople, July 1.

Sir Robert Liston, the ambassador of his Britannic Majesty to the Porte has just concluded an important treaty, after three years negotiation, by which the Divan at length recognises the arrange-



ments concluded by the four allied powers, respecting the Ionian islands. However, it appears not yet to have resolved upon giving its formal concurrence to the treaty of the 5th of November, 1815, which will satisfy England only by halves. The new treaty replaces the fortress of Parga and its dependencies under the dominion of the Sultan, who, on his side, recognizes the inhabitants of the Ionian islands as under the protection of Great Britain. This treaty was signed on the 24th of April; and it is therefore supposed that Parga will be very shortly delivered up to the Turkish authorities.

**Waterloo Trophies.**—A few days since, a sale by auction of the carriage, and other things which belonged to Napoleon Buonaparte, which were captured at Waterloo, took place at Bullock's Museum, Piccadilly, where they had been exhibited for some time. A numerous and most fashionable party were present. The following statement of the prices which some of the articles were purchased at, will serve to show the estimation in which these relics are held. —The carriage, 168*l.*; small opera glass, 5*l.* 5*s.*; tooth brush, 3*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*; black military stock, 1*l.* 17*s.*; snuff box, 166*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*; old slippers, 1*l.*; razor, (common) 4*l.* 4*s.*; shaving brush and shirt, 6*l.*; old gloves, 1*l.*; pocket handkerchief, 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*; shaving box, 7*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; comb, 1*l.* Many other articles fetched equally high prices. [*Lond. Paper.*]

A monument by Chantry has lately been erected in All Saints' Church, Cambridge, to the memory of Henry Kirke White. An American gentleman, named Boot, has been at the expense.

## Domestic.

### SEA SERPENT.

We disbelieved in the Sea Serpent as long as we could, and were reluctantly beginning to be convinced of his existence, when the capture of the *Horse Mackerel* by captain Rich, gave us an opportunity of returning joyfully to our former opinion, at the same time establishing a general rule in our own minds, not to believe *wonders*, if all the sailors on the ocean swore to them. The fol-

lowing letter, however, has made us again doubtful, and we copy it for our readers to form their own opinions.

*Boston, August 19.*

The recent appearance of this animal at Nahant, in the view of several hundreds of persons, has furnished perhaps more conclusive proofs of his existence, than any that have been before made public. For the satisfaction of our readers, we have procured a copy of the following letter, which gives a very clear and intelligible description of his appearance and movements. We have heard verbal statements from a great number of gentlemen, all of which agree in substance with what is here related. [*Daily Adv.*]

*Copy of a Letter from James Prince, esq. Marshal of this District, to the Hon. Judge Davis, dated Nahant, August 16, 1819.*

My dear Sir—I presume I may have seen what is generally thought to be the *Sea Serpent*. I have also seen my name inserted in the evening newspapers printed at Boston on Saturday, in a communication on this subject. For your gratification, and from a desire that my name may not sanction any thing beyond what was actually presented and passed in review before me, I will now state that, which, in the presence of more than two hundred other witnesses, took place near the long beach of Nahant on Saturday morning last.

Intending to pass two or three days with my family at Nahant, we left Boston early on Saturday morning. On passing the Half-way House, on the Salem turnpike, Mr. Smith informed us, the *Sea Serpent* had been seen the evening before at Nahant beach, and that a vast number of people from Lynn had gone to the beach that morning, in hopes of being gratified with a sight of him. This was confirmed at the hotel. I was glad to find I had brought my famous mast-head spyglass with me, as it would enable me from its form and size to view him to advantage, if I might be so fortunate as to see him. On our arrival on the beach, we associated with a considerable collection of persons on foot and in chaises; and very soon an animal of the fish kind made his appearance.

His head appeared about three feet out of water. I counted thirteen bunches on his back—my family thought there were fifteen. He passed three times at a moderate rate across the bay, but so fleet as to occasion a foam in the water; and my family and self, who were in a carriage, judged that he was from fifty and not more than sixty feet in length—whether, however, the wake might not add to the appearance of his length, or whether the undulation of the water, or his peculiar manner of propelling himself, might not cause the appearances of protuberances, I leave for your better judgment. The first view of the animal occasioned some agitation, and the novelty perhaps prevented that precise discrimination which afterwards took place. As he swam up the bay, we and the

other spectators moved on and kept nearly abreast of him: he occasionally withdrew himself under water, and the idea occurred to me, that his occasionally raising his head above the level of the water, was to take breath, as the time he kept under was on an average about eight minutes; and after being accustomed to view him we became more composed, and his general appearance was as above delineated. Mrs. Prince and the coachman, having better eyes than myself, were of great assistance to me in marking the progress of the animal; they would say, he is now turning, and by the aid of my glass I saw him distinctly in this movement; he did not turn without occupying some space, and taking into view the time and the space which he found necessary for his ease and accommodation, I adopted it as a criterion to form some judgment of his length. I had seven distinct views of him from the long beach so called, and at some of them the animal was not more than an hundred yards distance.

After being on the long beach with other spectators about an hour, the animal disappeared, and I proceeded on towards Nahant; but on passing the second beach, I met Mr. James Magee, of Boston, with several ladies in a carriage, prompted by curiosity to endeavour to see the animal, and we were again gratified beyond even what we saw in the other bay; which I concluded he had left in consequence of the number of boats in the offing in pursuit of him—the noise of whose oars must have disturbed him, as he appeared to us to be a harmless, timid animal. We had here more than a dozen different views of him, and each similar to the other; one, however, so near, that the coachman exclaimed, "Oh, see his glistening eye." Thinking I might form some calculation of his length by the time and distance of each turn, and taking an angle with my two hands of the length which he exhibited, that is to say from his head to the last protuberance, and applying the same angle to other objects, I feel satisfied of the correctness of my decision, that he is sixty feet long, unless the ripple of his wake deceived me—nor, my dear sir, do I undertake to say he was of the snake or eel kind—though this was the general impression of my family, the spectators and myself. Certain it is, he is a very strange animal. I have been accustomed to see whales, sharks, grampuses, porpoises, and other large fishes: but he partook of none of the appearances of either of these. The whale and the grampus would have spouted; the shark never raises his head out of the water, and the porpoise skips and plays: neither have such appearances on their backs, or such a head as this animal. The shark, it is true, has a fin on his back, and often the fluke of his tail is out of the water; but these appendages would not display the form, and certainly not the number of protuberances, which this animal exhibited; nor is it the habit of the shark to avoid a boat. The water was extremely smooth, and the weather clear. We had been so habituated to see him, that

we were cool and composed. The time occupied was from a quarter past 8 to half past 11: a cloud of witnesses exceeding two hundred, brought together for a single purpose, were all alike satisfied and united as to appearances and of the length and size of the animal: but you must deduct the influence which his passage through the water and the manner he propelled himself might have as to the apparent protuberances on his back, and the ripple occasioned by his motion on his real length, of all which you can judge equally well and better than myself. I must conclude there is a strange animal on our coast—and I have thought, an unvarnished statement might be gratifying to a mind attached to the pursuit of natural science, and aid in the inquiries on a controverted question, which I know to have interested you. I have ventured on the description, being also induced to hope, that if any thing of the marvellous is stated as coming from me, you will correct it. — J. PRINCE.

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*The Sea Serpent again.*—No Editor in our sister cities seems to be more ready to make himself merry at the expense of Yankee credulity respecting the Sea Serpent, than Mr. Lang, of the New York Gazette. Whenever he publishes an account of the appearance of this monster, he thinks it necessary to introduce a wise, or a witty note, to signify (as if it signified any thing,) his disbelief of the tale. Once, he says, he or his partner, in a boat, mistook a *hoop-pole* for a *log*—and it is not unusual with him to make even greater blunders, since it is a more striking mark of folly *not to believe a fact upon undisputed, creditable testimony*, that to believe something to be true upon slight evidence.

James Prince, esq., United States' marshal for this district, has written a letter to the hon. judge Davis, detailing the circumstances connected with the view which he was fortunate enough to obtain of the animal.

We have conversed with several gentlemen of great intelligence, accuracy of observation and undoubted veracity, eyewitnesses of the same thing, who support Mr. Prince in his general statement. One gentleman, on Saturday last, with whom we have had a conversation, was in his gig, and proceeded from Nahant over the great Lynn beach, when his attention was arrested by a collection of persons on the shore; and, not thinking of the Serpent, supposed they had assembled to try the speed of some horses—and on looking towards the sea, saw as he at first supposed a horse's head out of water, the animal swimming in a line parallel with his progress. But he soon perceived something unusual in his motion—and was presently satisfied the object he saw was the supposed Sea Serpent. He was distant from him several hundred yards, and his first determination was, without relation to his length or manner of motion, to ascertain the *shape of his head*. The head he satisfied himself perfectly was shaped



like that of a snake, apparently quite broad, and making rather a curved line inwards towards the throat. His length became then the next point to be considered, and, observing several whale boats in the offing, he made with his eye the necessary allowances for the difference of distance, and came to the conclusion, that it would require the length of five of them (perhaps 14 or 16 feet long,) to fill the space occupied by the Serpent, (then moving very slowly) from the head to the last protuberance upon his back. These bunches were sometimes few, and very wide apart, and suddenly would rise into full view, whether the animal was proceeding slowly through the water or not. The circumference of the neck which was exposed to sight, he thought, from subsequent observations, was at least that of a common sized person's body.

After the first view (which lasted four or five minutes), this gentleman proceeded to Nahant Point, to bring his lady to observe him, but on their arrival at the great beach he was not visible. They waited impatiently some time, and on returning over the short beach, the Serpent was suddenly seen rushing with great velocity round the point; his head and neck elevated made a foam in his progress through the water, somewhat resembling that produced by the prow of a boat sailing swiftly. This rapidity suddenly subsided into a more quiet and gradual motion, and his appearance was the same as before.

The question whether the protuberances that he exhibits are the flexures of the body produced by motion, or the actual form of the back, (though we incline to the latter opinion) is yet undecided; but the main object now in view is, to convince the world of the existence of a strange animal or fish of great length, hitherto unknown to naturalists, which has been denominated the Sea Serpent.

### WILLIAM LEWIS, ESQUIRE,

*Senior Counsellor of the Pennsylvania Bar,*

Died, Aug. 16, 1819, in the 69th year of his age.

Obedient to the strong influence of his genius, Mr. Lewis, at an early age exchanged the pursuits of agriculture for the study of the law, and placing himself under the instruction of the late Nicholas Waln, esquire, whose confidence and esteem he acquired while his pupil, he succeeded to his business and practice—and, uniting laborious diligence with extreme aptitude, he soon attained an eminence in his profession, which, during a course of forty years, he supported with the most splendid success.

On the organization of the present government of the United States, Mr. Lewis was appointed district attorney for Pennsylvania, and on the death of the late judge Hopkinson, president WASHINGTON, without solicitation, conferred upon him the office of district

judge. In deference to the appointment, Mr. Lewis administered its duties for a short time, but as it did not comport with his private arrangements, he resigned, and returned to the bar, where he continued, with his accustomed distinction, until declining health compelled him to seek repose on his farm, where he died.

Occasionally called to the councils of the commonwealth, as a member of the state legislature and convention—the duties of those important stations were discharged with his usual zeal and fidelity, and to his exertions, in a peculiar degree, is the state of Pennsylvania indebted for the independence of the judiciary.

The friend of freedom, he took a decided interest in the abolition of personal slavery, and the grateful expression of the emancipated sons of Africa, in their attendance at his funeral, attested their high sense of the obligations, which, as their advocate, he had conferred upon them.

Benevolent in his disposition, he was warm and faithful in his friendship—and he extended his beneficence wherever the opportunity and means were in his power.

Respected and regretted by those to whom he was intimately known, he has left an impression of his worth, which will be long and affectionately cherished. [Register.

At a meeting of the PHILADELPHIA BAR, held at the Supreme Court Room, on the 18th instant.

JARED INGERSOLL, esq. being called to the chair, and

E. S. SERGEANT, appointed Secretary.

The following resolution, offered by Mr. Duponceau, and seconded by Mr. Meredith, was unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That, as a mark of respect for the memory of WILLIAM LEWIS, esquire, the members of this bar will wear crape on their left arm for the space of thirty days from this date.

JARED INGERSOLL, Chairman.

E. S. SERGEANT, Sec'y.

*The German Intelligencer.*—The lithographic art (printing with stone) has been brought to great perfection at the lithographic institution of Arnz & Co. in Dusseldorf. At a short notice, and very low prices, they furnish a variety of articles. Here are printed blanks of all descriptions; bills of exchange; price currents; bills of lading; address, visiting and pattern cards; tables, labels, vignettes; architectural and fortification plans; musical compositions; portraits, landscapes, &c.

Arnz & Co. are now publishing in numbers a work on Natural History by professor Strack. This splendid production, various maps, and other interesting

specimens of German skill from the same institution, have been received in this city, and may be seen every day from 8 to 9 A. M. at the office of Mr. Peter Schmidt, 84 Maiden Lane, who will receive orders for the Lithographic Institution at Dusseldorf.

Dr. JOHN EBERLE of Philadelphia, has undertaken to translate from the German, the *History of Pennsylvania*, by the celebrated Ebeling, and the G. I. is informed that the translation is now in a considerable degree of forwardness, so that its publication may soon be expected. This history begins with the first settlement of that state, and comes down to the year 1802. It is a plain unostentatious narrative of the facts, well put together, and in a style far above that of a day chronicle. Though the author does not affect elegance, yet the history is pleasing and interesting throughout. By competent gentlemen it is pronounced to be by far the best history of Pennsylvania that has yet appeared, and one of the best that has been published of any of the United States. [*N. Y. Daily Adv.*]

*New York, August 21.*

Proposals are issued in Baltimore, for publishing, in a duodecimo volume, the essays which have recently appeared in the National Advocate, of this city, on Domestic Economy, signed "*Howard.*" They are pronounced, by a writer in Baltimore, as possessing uncommon merit, and come home to the *mind* and *purse* of every man.

We learn that the canal commissioners have recently appointed a person to survey Buffalo harbour, in order to obtain the necessary information to guide them in the prosecution of their duties.

It has been said that, by the article of the constitution which prohibits states from issuing bills of credit, they are virtually forbidden to incorporate banks. Whether this be so or not, may admit of much doubt, but we should think a bank on the following principles clearly unlawful:

*Extract from the Constitution of Alabama, on the Establishment of Banks.*

1. At least two-fifths of the capital stock shall be reserved to the state.

2. A proportion of power in the direction of the bank shall be reserved to the state, equal at least to its proportion of stock therein.

3. The state and the individual stockholders shall be liable respectively for the debts of the bank, in proportion to their stock holden therein.

4. The remedy for collecting debts shall be reciprocal, for and against the bank.

5. No bank shall commence operation until one half of the capital stock subscribed for, be actually paid in gold or silver, which amount shall in no case be less than one hundred thousand dollars.

*Appointment by the Governor.*—Captain HENRY KENYON, late of the United States Navy, to be Quarantine Master, for the port of Philadelphia, in the room of Captain Thomas Moore, deceased.

### Internal Improvement.

#### *Canal from Lake Michigan to Illinois.*

We have had the satisfaction to obtain from Messrs. Phillips and Graham, a copy of their report to the secretary of war upon the practicability of canal communications between the lake Michigan and the Illinois river. It is published in this day's paper, and we hope will have the effect of exciting American statesmen to finish the great work which nature has almost accomplished in that place. The ground between the lake and the river is within the limits of the state of Illinois, but the disposition of the soil belongs to the United States. The Indian title being extinguished, the next thing is to survey and sell the land. But, would it not be right for the United States to open the canal first, and sell the lands afterwards? A town site, also selected and sold out in lots, might be a part of the national policy. The objection that this would be digging a canal in the wilderness, would not lie; for New York and New Orleans are not wildernesses, and it is these cities, and all between them, which require this canal. In fact, the *Canal Clinton*, (for by that name posterity will call it,) will have but half its value until the Michigan and Illinois are united. And while the Havana belongs to a foreign power, we can only hope, in time of war, to communicate between New York and New Orleans by this route. In a mercantile point of view, (for there are some politicians who can decide no question without taking it into the counting house,) it would be better for the United States to open the canal first, and sell the ground afterwards. The difference in the price would certainly pay for the canal, and leave a profit to the government. Town lots, in this age of town-making, would also have their attractions. Merchants and statesmen would see, in this point, the *Byzantium* of North America; a city, which commanding the outlet from the northern seas into the valley of the Mississippi, is to have a prodigious influence, in future times, upon the commerce and the policy of this great republic.

This interesting report confirms a fact, well



known in this country, but hardly credited in the Atlantic states, to wit, that vessels now pass, in high water, between the Illinois and Michigan—and states that which has not before been seen in print; to wit, that the waters of the lake are driven by the eastern wind across the portage into the Illinois river, and hence to the gulf of Mexico! This astonishing fact is given by gentlemen whose information was obtained on the spot, and whose credit was above suspicion.

Here follows the report:—

Sir—In addition to the notes of Mr. Sullivan, the surveyor, which describe the face of the country over which the lines were run, we beg leave to suggest some views which occurred to us on the subject of communication between the river Illinois and the Michigan lake.

By reference to the map herewith forwarded, it will be seen, that the little river *Plein*, coming from the north-west, approaches within ten miles and a quarter of lake Michigan, and then, bending to the south-west, unites with the *Theakiki*, at the distance of about fifty miles, and forms the Illinois. The country between the lake and the *Plein*, at this point of approach, is a prairie, (natural meadow) without trees, covered with grass, and to the eye a perfect level. From the banks of the *Plein*, standing on the ground, the trees are distinctly seen, with the naked eye, at Fort Dearborn, on the shore of the lake; from Fort Dearborn they are in like manner seen on the bank of the *Plein*. Standing on any intermediate point between the lake and the river, and the judgment is at a loss to say to which side the ground declines; and whether the level of the *Plein* or the lake is the highest. It was, however, determined from a certain data, that the level of the river was two feet, or thereabouts, above the level of the lake.

From this view, it would seem that the cutting of a canal in this place between the *Plein* and the lake would be a work of neither skill, difficulty, nor expense. Small, however, as the labour would be under this view, it is still diminished upon a closer examination; and, by finding that an arm of the lake called Chicago puts out in the direction of the *Plein*, and that an arm of the *Plein*, also called Chicago, puts out in the direction of the lake. They approach within two miles of each other; so that, in common water, there is only dry ground to that extent between them. The character of their two arms is essentially different; that of the lake being about 60 feet wide, and from 10 to 4 feet deep; that of the river being, in high water, from 4 to 6 feet deep, and, in places, a mile wide; and, in low water, either dry or reduced to a gutter. Between the head of these two arms is also a gutter, which is dry in the dry season of summer and fall, and full of water in the spring; and, when thus filled with water, the boats of six or eight tons engaged in the Mackinaw and Mississippi trade, run through,

backwards and forwards, so as to make no portage between Mackinaw and the Mississippi. This gutter, judging from the appearance of others now forming, was at first a path worn out by the feet of those who carried things across the portage, and afterwards deepened by the attrition of the water until formed into a little canal, and its direction depends upon the course of the wind; objects have been seen to float out of it, from the same point, to the river and to the lake. It is incontestably true, that an east wind will drive the water of the lake, through this gutter, into the *Plein*, and that water from lake Michigan has been discharged by this outlet into the Mississippi, and thence into the gulf of Mexico. It is equally incontestable, that the waters of the *Plein* have been driven, by the same channel, into the lake: and that these phenomena may now be witnessed at any time when the waters are high and the winds blow hard. It follows, therefore, that to finish the canal, begun by nature in this place, would require, as we have already said, but little of skill, time or expense. On opening the canal, however, two difficulties would be experienced. 1. The *Plein* would be found to be above the level of the canal; its water, of course, would be diverted from its natural channel, and pass by the canal into the lake. 2. Supposing that evil remedied by a lock to lift vessels into the *Plein*, yet the *Plein*, during half the year, does not contain water enough to float a boat, and so would not become useful as a national highway. To remedy this defect of nature in the *Plein*, two projects subject themselves. 1. To sink the bed of the *Plein* below the level of the canal, and thus increase the depth of the *Plein*, as well by feeding it out of the lake as by collecting its waters into a narrow channel. 2. To make the canal unite with the *Plein* lower down in its course; a few miles lower would be sufficient to give the water of the lake a descent into the river, as the *Plein* has a sensible descent in this place, insomuch that the people of Chicago call it "the Rapids," having no other word to distinguish moving water from that which stands still.

Of the *Plein*, below its point of approach to the lake, we would remark, that it has hardly the attributes of a river, being in most places without a current and without banks, lying as a sheet of water in the prairie, sometimes a mile wide, and so shallow that the tall grass appears almost every where above its surface.

Having said this much of the facility of communications by the Chicago, we would now observe, that several other routes are perfectly practicable. 1. From a point in the lake south of Chicago, to enter the *Plein* below Mount Juliet, at or near what is called lake Du Page, but which is only a dilation of the waters of the *Plein*. This route would lie over level prairie, through a multitude of small lakes or ponds which have neither name nor place in any map. 2. By a canal leaving the lake near its south end and uniting with

the Theakiki, just above its confluence with the Plein. Both of these canals would be fed from the lake, would require few or no locks, would go over ground of the same soil, would be 50 or 60 miles long, and would join the waters of the Illinois at points from which it is constantly navigable. A third route was spoken of, but not seen by us. It would lie between the Theakiki and the St. Joseph of the lake. Information says that it has been practised by French traders.

You will perceive, Sir, that we have not spoken of the nature of the soil through which these several routes would pass. Not being our business to search for and report upon the practicability of water communications, our observations were limited to what fell under the eye while engaged in another duty. And in making this report to you, it is our object to excite inquiry, not to furnish plans of practical projects. We shall therefore only say, on this point, that the country in general, and the bed of the Plein, exhibited much loose stone, pebble, and firm ground.

To conclude—the route by the Chicago, as followed by the French since the discovery of the Illinois, presents, at one season of the year, an uninterrupted water communication for boats of six or eight tons, between the Mississippi and the Michigan lake; at another season a portage of two miles; at another a portage of seven miles, from the bend of the Plein to the arm of the lake; at another a portage of fifty miles, from the mouth of the Plein to the lake; over which there is a well beaten wagon road, and boats and their loads are hauled by oxen, and vehicles kept for that purpose by the French settlers at the Chicago. With respect. &c.

JOSEPH PHILLIPS,  
RICHARD GRAHAM.

Hon. J. C. CALHOUN,  
Secretary at War, Washington City.  
[*Missouri Enquirer.*]

## Science.

### PREMIUMS

Offered by the American Philosophical Society, held at Philadelphia, for promoting useful knowledge.

**Magellanic Premium.**—Mr. John Hyacinth De Magellan, of London, having made a donation to the society, "to be vested in a permanent fund, that the interest arising therefrom might be awarded in annual premiums, to the authors of the best discoveries or most useful improvements, relating to Navigation, or to Natural Philosophy, (mere Natural History only excepted;)" and several of these premiums remaining unclaimed, they are now offered by the society, under the following rules and conditions.

1. Candidates are at liberty to present for the premium, any subject coming within the views of the donor, as expressed above.

2. The candidate shall send an account of his discovery, invention or improvement, addressed to the President or one of the Vice-Presidents of the society,\* free of postage or other charges; and shall distinguish his performance by some motto, device or other signature, at his pleasure. Together with this account of his discovery, invention or improvement, he shall also send a sealed letter, containing the same motto, device or signature, and subscribed with the real name and place of residence of the author.

3. No discovery, invention or improvement shall be entitled to this premium, which has been already published, or for which the author has been publicly rewarded elsewhere.

4. The decision on the communications presented for these premiums, shall be made by the society, in the month of December, annually.

5. The unsuccessful performances shall remain under consideration, and their authors be considered as candidates for the premium, for five years after the time of their presentment; except such performances as their authors may, in the mean time, think fit to withdraw.

6. The premium shall consist of an oval plate of solid standard gold, of the value of *Ten Guineas*. On one side thereof shall be neatly engraved a short Latin motto suited to the occasion; together with these words, "*The premium of J. H. de Magellan, of London, established in the year 1786.*" And on the other side of the plate shall be engraved these words, "*Awarded by the A. P. S. to ———, for his discovery of ———, A. D. ———, ———, president.*" And the seal of the society shall be annexed to the said golden plate, by a riband passing through a small hole near the lower edge thereof.

**Extra Magellanic Premium.**—The fund established by Mr. De Magellan, having so far increased, in the hands of the society, as to be much more than sufficient for the annual premium, contem-

\* President, Robert Patterson;—Vice-Presidents, William Tilghman, P. S. Duponceau, and Z. Collins.



plated by the donor, the society have resolved to apply the surplus, in the distribution of other premiums, under the following heads:

1. For the best invention or improvement dependent on Mechanics, and applicable to useful purposes.

2. For the best invention or improvement dependent on Chemistry, and applicable to useful purposes.

3. For the best memoir on any subject dependent on Natural History, and immediately applicable to useful purposes.

The rules and conditions under which the Extra Magellanic Premium is to be awarded, are the same as those adopted above for the Magellanic Premium.

The Extra Magellanic Premium shall consist of a sum of money, of not less than *Twenty Dollars*, or more than *Forty Five Dollars*; or, in lieu thereof, it shall be the option of the candidate, a gold or silver medal, or piece of plate, with a suitable inscription, of equal value.

The value of the premium awarded to any candidate shall be regulated, within the above limits, according to the merit which the society may attach to his performance.

Published by order of the Society.

R. M. PATTERSON, Sec'y.

Philadelphia, July, 1819.

### ON LIGHTNING.

Scarce can one now unfold a newspaper, without seeing an account of some dreadful, and often fatal accident from lightning. Barns, recently filled with hay or grain, are, it may be observed, much more frequently struck with lightning than dwelling houses; horses or oxen, in teams, than the carriages to which they are attached; and *kitchen chimnies*, with fire on the hearth, than other chimnies of the same buildings.

The reason of the above is not unobvious—

1. Lightning (the electric fluid) in its passage between a thunder cloud and the earth, will always take that direction where it will meet with the least resistance; or, in other words, where it will meet with the best conductors. Now, next to metallic substances, which, with charcoal and black lead, may be termed *perfect* conductors of electricity, are reckoned animal bodies, and water in its liquid state, which are *less* perfect conductors; then, steam vapour, smoke, and heated air, which are ranked among *imperfect* conductors; while dry air, vitreous and resinous substances, and all animal excrescences, as silk, hair, wool, feathers, and horns, are considered as *non-conductors*. 2. When the electric fluid

passes through a perfect conductor, little or no sensible effect is produced: thus, a stream of lightning may pass through a metallic conductor, without producing any very sensible increase of temperature. But, when it forces its passage through a non-conductor, or an imperfect one, an explosion will take place (thunder), the medium will be rent asunder, and, if inflammable, will frequently be set on fire.

On the above principles, which are now well established, we may, I believe, satisfactorily account for all the phenomena which usually occur in thunder storms.

1. In a barn recently filled with fresh vegetable substances, a slight degree of fermentation will usually, perhaps always take place; this may be perceived by the increase of temperature, which may be sensibly felt by thrusting the hand and arm into the mow. In consequence of this fermentation, a column of vapour will ascend into the air above the barn, favourable to the passage of the electric fluid; but this vapour, as well as the contents of the barn, being imperfect conductors, the phenomena above mentioned will be liable to take place—an explosion and inflammation.

2. The reason why teams of horses or oxen are more liable to be struck with lightning than the carriages to which they are attached, may be, that, their bodies, presenting a great mass of animal substance, in contact with the earth, aided by the vapour ascending by perspiration, or respiration from their heated bodies, will favour the passage of the electric fluid; but, as in the case of the barn, being only imperfect conductors, the fatal accident may ensue; while the *tire* on the wheels of the carriage will generally defend it from a like accident.

3. The heated air, and aqueous smoky vapour in the funnel of a chimney having fire on the hearth, will, as it were, *solicit* the lightning to pass in that direction; but, for the same reason as in the case of the barn, or team of animals, a like phenomena may take place.

But the mere *rationale* of the above effects of lightning, can of itself afford but little satisfaction to those who are exposed to the danger; the question of real interest is, how may these accidents be prevented?

Happily for mankind, this question is now no longer of doubtful or difficult solution? Providence, through the agency of intelligent and reflecting men (chiefly Dr. Franklin), has revealed this preventive, which, from the experience of more than half a century, has been found effectual—the *Lightning Rod*. And he who will neglect to make use of this valuable discovery, and gift of Heaven, must certainly be chargeable with all the evils consequent on his neglect.

A few plain directions respecting the use of lightning rods, or metallic conductors, may not, perhaps, be deemed unseasonable at the present time.

1. The conductor may be made of pretty thick nail rods, looped or welded together,

or, which is better, a piece of thick wire. Let the top of the rod be formed into a moderately sharp point, and *tinned*, to prevent it from rust or oxidation. Or, where tinning may not be convenient, let the top of the rod be well rubbed over with black lead, which will answer nearly the same purpose.

2. Where a choice can be made, let the rod be attached to the kitchen chimney, especially when this is on the western side of the building; as thunder storms most frequently come from that quarter. Let the upper extremity of the rod extend a few feet (say 4 or 5) above the chimney, and the lower extremity descend 5 feet, at least, into the ground, surrounded by a bushel or two of charcoal, which, being itself a good conductor of electricity, as well as absorbent of moisture, will greatly facilitate the passage of the fluid between the rod and the earth. A considerable depth may be obtained, with little trouble, by letting the rod pass through the wall of the building, into the cellar, and there sinking it into the ground.

Similar directions may be observed in attaching a lightning rod to a barn, or other building.

3. Horses or oxen, in a team, may, with a little previous preparation, be preserved from a stroke of lightning, thus: Let a piece of pointed wire, say about a foot long, be inserted into a hole, made for the purpose, in the top of the hames or yoke, when a thunder storm is apprehended, and on this wire let there be suspended a small metallic chain, so that its lower extremity may hang down, and drag along the ground. An explosion will thus be generally prevented, or at least rendered harmless.

In a similar manner, a person either riding on horseback, or walking on the ground, during a thunder storm, may be preserved from injury.

The manner of attaching a lightning rod to a ship is well known, though too often shamefully neglected.

R. P.  
*Philadelphia, Aug. 13.*

[*Nat. Int.*]

### Poetry.

The following Sonnet, addressed by Mr. Roscoe to his books, on parting with them, is extracted from "*Roscoe*," in Mr. Irvine's "*Sketch Book*, No. 1." If any thing can add effect to the pure feeling and elevated thought here displayed, it is the conviction, that the whole is no effusion of fancy, but a faithful transcript from the author's heart. [*Bost. Int.*]

#### TO MY BOOKS.

As one, who, destined from his friends to part,  
 Regrets his loss, but hopes again erewhile  
 To share their converse and enjoy their smile,  
 And tempers as he may, affliction's dart;  
 Thus, lov'd associates, chiefs of elder art,  
 Teachers of wisdom, who could once beguile  
 My tedious hours, and lighten every toil,  
 I now resign you; nor with fainting heart;

For pass a few short years, or days, or hours,  
 And happier seasons may their dawn unfold;  
 And all your sacred fellowship restore;  
 When, freed from earth, unlimited its powers,  
 Mind shall with mind direct communion hold,  
 And kindred spirits meet to part no more.

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#### MARRIED.

On the 17th instant, by the Rev. Dr. Pilmore, Mr. George Tryon, of Philadelphia, to Miss Jane Greer, of Bucks county.

On the 19th inst. at St. Peter's Church, by the Right Rev. Bishop White, John Fine, esq. of St. Lawrence county, New York, to Martha, youngest daughter of the late Francis Gurney, esq. of this city.

#### DIED.

On the 19th inst. Miss Harriet H. McAllister, daughter of Matthew McAllister, esq. of Savannah, Georgia.

On the 19th inst. Miss Margaret Berrien, daughter of the late Dr. William Berrien, of New Jersey.

On the 19th inst. suddenly, at 12 o'clock, Mrs. Sarah McCauley, consort of John McCauley, esq. of this city.

On the 19th inst. at Baltimore, John Nancarrow, a native of Philadelphia, aged thirty-eight.

On the 21st inst. at Princeton, the Rev. Samuel Stanhope Smith, D. D. late president of Princeton College.

On the 24th inst. Mr. James King, jr. aged thirty-two.

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